

West Lafayette Beautification Award

November 2009

The November Award is going to two neighboring gardeners who happen to be mother and daughter. Mary Lou Schendel, along with husband Dan, has gardened at 1327 North Grant Street since 1966. She has coped with problems of shade from the beginning and has seen her landscape grow to maturity. Recently she turned to Craig Whitten for advice in rejuvenating the yard, which resulted in a redesigned driveway and patio, with many new plantings. They added lots of ornamental grasses, hydrangeas and hosta, with many annuals and bulbs to provide seasonal color. The welcoming plantings featuring Japanese maples at the street have made this home a focal point for drivers and pedestrians on Grant Street.

Three years ago, daughter Pam bought the home next door and has been working with an established landscape to make it her own. She also had advice from Craig Whitten in dealing with a very shady yard featuring many native plants. A water feature needed to be constructed quickly to become the new home for pet fish. Unfortunately, the resident blue heron also followed the fish to their new home, and every year has a spring banquet. The new pond has hiding places for the fish to escape their predator. Siberian irises are planted around the pond, with many hostas lining a memory walk. Pam admits she wasn't interested in gardening when she lived at 1327, but has developed a strong interest in improving her own landscape, especially learning to deal with shady slopes. She appreciates the bluebells, jack in the pulpit, and dogtooth violets planted by the previous owners.





